

NSC BRIEFING

30 January 1957

KASHMIR DEVELOPMENTS

I. UN Security Council resolution called for Kashmir plebiscite (24 Jan: 10-0--USSR abstaining). Major result:

A. [REDACTED] -this will probably become even more intense as Indians attempt to discourage further UN "interference".

B. [REDACTED] Indian army is "fully mobilized" against threat of Pakistani military action in Kashmir.

1. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] No significant Indian troop movements now known.

C. Another example is Krishna Menon's statement to Ambassador Lodge (28 Jan) that there is danger of Pakistani "fedayeen" attacks in Kashmir and that if such attacks come, he favors India's taking over all of Pakistan.

D. There is general feeling of bitterness, isolation in New Delhi.

1. Indian air officer reportedly lamented to American chargé: "Not even the Russians stood by us!"

2. Indian press has lashed out at the "interested and mischievous role" played by Britain and the US throughout the Kashmir dispute.

II. Pakistan, on the other hand, is gratified--at least temporarily--by UN action.

B. Pak press has hailed world support for Pakistan's "just cause."

III. Intensity of Indian feeling means that India is now the country to watch:

A. Indian government stands adamant against any form of a plebiscite--which India would probably lose because of 77% Moslem majority in Kashmir.

B. A few Indian extremists (who have never accepted partition) would probably welcome incident in Kashmir as excuse to launch all-out attack to reincorporate Pakistan (viz. Menon's line).

IV. We believe India is unlikely to initiate hostilities in immediate future.

A. Already controls best part of Kashmir, two-thirds of population.

B. Indian-held Kashmir contains no irregular and difficult-to-control forces such as exist on Pakistani side.

C. Nonetheless, high tension makes future outburst possible, if either side concludes it is pushed to wall.

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